

A
DECLARATION
AND
WARNING

To all the
MEMBERS of this

K I R K
FROM THE
COMMISSION
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



EDINBURGH,
Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the Kings
most Excellent Majestie, 1649.

DECLARATION

AND

WAR

OF THE

UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

AGAINST

THE


REBELS

OF THE

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
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EDINBURGH, May, 11. 1649.

A Declaration and Warning to all the Members of this Kirk, from the Commission of the General Assembly.

eing men of Malignant and perverse spirits do not cease to oppose the Work of the Lord and disquiet the peace of his People, but after many disappointments renew their wicked designs and practises against Religion and the Covenant; It becomes us whom the Lord hath called to so publick a trust, not to cease to renew our Warnings and Declarations concerning the evil of their way, that they may be recovered out of the snare of Sathan if it be possible, and that others may not fall therein but avoyd such tentations & do their duty straightly and without fear.

We did not long since bear Testimony against the proceedings of Sectaries in our Neighbour-Land, in reference to Religion and Government; And it is unto us matter of very much astonishment and sorrow, that whilst their practises are not lessened but heightened, there should be found in our Land some who have taken up Armes and made Insurrection in the North, labouring to strengthen themselves against the Power and Authority of the Parliament, that they may set up again the Malignant party to overturn the work of God, and tread upon the necks of his people: And albeit most of that Malignant party are plagued of God with blindness of mind and hardness of heart, and stop their ears against instruction; yet if there be any place left for exhortation, Wee shall desire these men who are hatching such cockatrice egges and weaving such spiders webs,

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and all others who favour their way and wish them to prosper, or have any thoughts or inclination to joyne with them or follow their steps seriously to ponder and consider these things which follow.

1 What a horrible and high provocation it is for any to be found fighting against God and persecuting his People and Truth. Is not this it, that hath brought down many Kings & Princes and great men, and overturned many Kingdoms, Cities and families, and brought many great and sore plagues upon many particular persons of all ranks and conditions. 2 How abominable and Treacherous a thing it is for men who are under the Oath of God, and the tie both of the National Covenant and of the solemn League and Covenant, some whereof have been lately professing and offering repentance for their former backslidings, to turn open enemies and adversaries thereto, Perjury is hatefull amongst the heathen and how much more hatefull and monstrous should it be amongst Christians, especially in those things that concern God and Religion. 3 Hath not the Lord now for ten years past shewen himselfe strong and mighty, dreadfull and terrible in defeating all the designes, and breaking all the power, and bringing down all the pride of the Malignant party? Have they not many times digged deep to hide their counsels from the Lord, and hath he not found them out and filled them with the deviles of their own hearts? With what Art & industry have they many times promoted, & with what power and strength have they often times backed and carried on their purposes and projects? But he that sits in Heaven hath always blown upon them and brought them to nothing. No weapon formed against his people hath prospered, but after that the Lord had hardened the instruments of our former troubles by success for a little space, he did set a snare for them, and brought them down to horrible destruction in a moment: The Lords dealing with the rebels in this Kingdom, and with the Authors and Abettors of the Engagement against the Kingdom of *England*, whom he hath made a terrour round about, we hope shall be examples of his wrath against the Enemies

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mies of his Cause and of his People, not onely to this, but also to the following generations. 4. How great a wickedness must it be in such a period of time, when so much danger threatens Religion and Government, from that prevailing party in *England*, for men to arise in this Land to discourage the hearts and weaken the hands of the Lords People by their Malignant and insolent attempts. 5. How little pittie have they, nay certainly their malice and cruelty must needs be very great, who will needs after so many and long continued troubles and calamities again involve this land in confusion and blood. It is the earnest and longing desire, and in some measure the hope and expectation of the Lords People in this Kingdom, after so many storms and tempests which have tossed them for many days, that the Lord may now bring them into the harbour of tranquillity and peace; And the man who shall obstruct or retard this, as he shall be hated of good men, so certainly he shall bring upon himself a great measure of wrath and indignation from the Lord, and God shall make his memory stink unto the generations that are to come. 6. What Treachery and cruelty it is against the Kings Majestie, and what an obstruction in establishing of his Throne in such a nick of time, when both State and Kirk have sent Commissioners and given in Desires to his Majestie in those things that concern the securing of Religion, and the settling of his Majesties Government and the Peace of these Kingdoms, for any to raise new commotions and troubles, which cannot but foment jealousies between the King and his Subjects, and beget and entertain differences amongst them unto the estranging their affection one from another; And whosoever are the Authors thereof, or accessory thereto shall justly be looked upon, as enemies to Religion, to his Majesties Person and Government, upon whom the guilt of all those miseries that may come upon his Majesty or his Royall Family doth lye in a speciall way.

These and many other considerations do exceedingly heighten and encrease the guilt of that wicked Insurrection

both before G O D and men: And therefore we do earnestly
Beseech and Exhort all who live in this Land, that as they tender
their solemn Obligation and Oath both by the Nationall Covenant,
and by the solemn League and Covenant, and as they love the Honour of *Jesus Christ* and the Gospel,
and the work of Reformation, and as they respect the Kings
Honour and Happinesse, and desire Religion to be secured, and
peace to be settled, Nay as they wish to eschew the heave
Wrath and Indignation of the L O R D, That they do not
give any countenance nor assistance, nor connivance to these
wicked men in their wicked way, much lesse to joyn with them
in Counsell or in Armes: And because it lies upon us to be
faithfull in our station, therefore as We have already given
warning unto these men, that unlesse they do speedily desist
from their evil way and repent, that We will proceed against
them with the dreadfull sentence of Excommunication; so We
do now declare that this being a crime so Atrocious that if
any shall hereafter joyn with them, We will be necessitated
impartially to proceed against them with the highest Censures
of the Kirk, that such drosse may be purged out from amongst
Us, and that others may learn to fear. We know that these
men labour to shadow their attempts against Religion and the
Cause of GOD under the pretext of self-preservation and their
being debarred from publick trust, and the respect, which they
owe to his Majesties greatnesse, the priviledges of the Parlia-
ment and liberties of the Subjects; But We know no cause
why they should have feared danger from thele to whom God
hath committed the power of the sword in the Land, suffici-
ent security being offered unto them for their Lives and Estates,
they obliging themselves not to disturbe the Peace of the King-
dom: That they are debarred from trust, is that which their
own misdemeanors and treachery by betraying of their former
trust hath justly procured on their part, and necessitated upon
the part both of State and Kirk, unlesse they would have re-
solved after so many sad and dear-bought experiences of back-
sliding

sliding and unfaithfullnesse of these men, to be so blinde and foolish as again to tempt God to the overturning of his Cause & exposing the Kingdoms to ruine. Neither will any who hath eyes to discern look upon them but as upon the Kings Enemies and the Enemies of his Throne; For as they by their perverse counsell and wicked combinations and conspiracies did harden the King his Royall Father unto the continuing of the afflictions and troubles of these Kingdoms: So we cannot but think that if they and others of their way should cease to raise calumnies against those who are truly Loyall to his Majesty, and to suggest evill Counsell to the prejudice of Religion and the Peace of his Kingdoms, and to entertain him with hopes of Armies for carrying on their wicked designs, but that his Majesty should in a very short time be settled upon his Throne in Peace, with all the splendor and greatnesse that is due unto him: And who will beleevethat these men are for the Priviledges of Parliament, who these many yeers past have pleaded and fought for an Arbitrary and illimited power, that ought not (if We will beleevethem) though acting never so unjustly be resisted by any; Or can it be thought that they are for the Subjects liberty, who in the few moneths time that GOD permitted them to prevail and use so horrible oppression over the Lords people in their consciences persons and estates. Most of those who have now made Insurrection and their adherents, are no other then those who opposed the Cause of GOD and the work of Reformation from the beginning, Neither are their principles wayes and ends any other then have been owned and promoted by the Malignant party in these Kingdoms these many yeers past. Of this We desire to give warning to all men in the Land that none may be deceived in partaking with them in their sins, lest they be partakers of their plagues: We do Exhort all the LORDS people to be strong in the LORD, and in the power of his might, and as to adhere unto the Covenant and work of Reformation, so to cleave to those whom GOD hath intrusted with the Government, and publick Affairs in the Land,


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Land, that their hands may be strenghted in the performance of all publick duties which they minde with so much faithfullnesse and care. These are they whom the LORD was pleased to honour to be the Instruments, to begin the great Work of Reformation in this Kingdom, who have been faithfull in the midst of many difficulties and temptations in promoting of it in both Kingdoms, whose endeavours have been attended with blessings and successe from Heaven. Neither is the cause which they now owe and defend any other then that which they have owned and defended against the Popish, Prelaticall and Malig-nant party these ten yeers past, and are ready to maintain and defend against all enemies whatsoever, both on the right hand and on the left; And therefore we hope that all that love Religion and Covenant, will be obedient unto all their lawfull commands, and cordially and actively further and promote the present Levie, and cheerfully and patiently bear the lengthening of necessary burthens, without which We can never preserve that which the Lord hath wrought amongst Us nor our selves, and if any Injustice or oppression hath fallen out, or shall hereafter fall out in executing of publick orders for Levies or maintenance, as We are confident that those whom it concerns will take speedy and effectuell course for reparation of the same, so shall we according to our vocation endeavour to have the same redressed and remedies provided for the time to come. We know no cause why any mans hand should fail, or his heart faint, the LORDS Hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor his ears heavie that he cannot hear; He hath done great things for us, and will never fail us, nor forsake us: Our troubles shall helpto refine us, but not to destroy us, they shall not overturn the work of Reformation, but put more beautie and lustre upon it, and shall give unto us more pregnant evidences of the power and goodnesse of the LORD, and set him high upon the Throne of His Glory.

A. Ker.

EDINBURGH, 12. May 1649.

Postscript.

*Containing the Causes of a solemn Thanksgiving, to be kept
upon fryday the 25. day of this instant.*

 Ithin a short time after that we had resolved and concluded thus to Declate and give warning concerning the Insurrection in the North, We received certain Intelligence by an Expreste sent of purpose from thence, that upon *Tuesday* last at *Balvenie* upon *Spey* side, by a party of an hundred and twenty horse, commanded by Lieutenant Generall *Leslie* to attend these fields under the conduct of Colonell *Ker*, Lieutenant Colonell *Harker*, Lieutenant Colonell *Strachen*, the Lord hath defeat the most considerable part, if not all the strength of the Rebels in the North, to the number of twelve hundred, of whom betwixt sixty and eighty are killed, near eight hundred taken prisoners, and amongst those, the now *L. Rae* with his most considerable officers, and many considerable gentlemen and officers of the name of *Mac-kenzie*: Which as it is a great and most reasonable mercy that carries upon it a lively impression of the power and goodnesse of the Lord, so doth it engage his people to acknowledge and bear Testimony to the same before the sons of men.

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And

And therefore having now for a long time past, had thoughts of a publick thanksgiving for the many mercies bestowed upon, and deliverances wrought for the Land; Wee conceive this day of salvation to be a fitting opportunity, wherein the Lords people should make mention of his loving kindnesse and exalt his Name by publick thanksgiving and praise, for all the great things which he hath done for them, especially for these which follow.

1 That as the Lord since the beginning of the work of Reformation hath alwayes gone before his people, and visited them with most seasonable deliverances in the day of their difficulties and distresses; so also that of late, when all the power of the Kingdom both in Judicatories and Armies was come into the hands of Malignant and disaffected men, the Lord was pleased to preserve in this Land (having been over them in a pillar of direction and protection) a remnant in the Parliament to dissent from, and protest against the proceedings of the greater part tending so much to the prejudice of Religion and the work of God, and that he directed and enabled his servants of the ministry to bear so free and faithfull Testimony in their Sermons, Warnings and Declarations against that unlawful Engagement, and put it in the hearts of many of his people to petition against it, and to refuse to concur therein notwithstanding of their great sufferings.

2. That whilst the Malignant and disaffected party in the Land were in the height of their strength, and pride of their power, God was pleased to break their horn, and to scatter them and bring them down, and to put it in the hearts of his people to come forth for their own defence against the remnant of their Forces, and so to dispose, that after that Malignant party at *Stirling* had shed blood, yet things were concluded in a peaceable way, and both
their

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their Armes and the Civill power gotten out of their hands, and put into the hands of those that have been honest and faithfull in the Cause from the beginning.

3. That the Lord was pleased to give unto us in such a period of time, a Parliament consisting of so many able and faithfull men, who did walk so straightly in all things concerning Religion and his Majesties Government, and make so many pious and laudable Acts for the suppressing of profanitie and iniquity, and advancing Piety, and Righteousness in the Land.

4. That the Lord hath disappointed and defeated so many secret Plots and devises, tending to the undermining of his Cause, especially that at the Isle of *Wight* so prejudiciall to the Covenant and the Union betwixt the Kingdoms.

5. That the Lord hath been pleased at such a time when all the Malignants of the Kingdom were hatching new devices, and strengthening themselves at home, and expecting Forces from abroad, by so small a number, and in so unexpected a way, to defeat so many of them, and give such victory and salvation to his People, without so much as one being killed on our side.

6. That the LORD was pleased to direct and assist both State and Kirk, in giving so seasonable; full, and harmonious Testimony against the proceedings of the Sectaries in *England*.

A. Ker.

F I N I S.